

Talking Points for Shaun McGrath's proposed visit with the Tribal Business Council:

- **Introduction:** ozone air quality issues have been observed over the last few years at numerous air monitors (tribal and state) in the Uinta Basin, with the majority showing high ozone levels during winter inversions (as high as 134 ppb – AQI very unhealthy context)
- ~98% of all VOCs and ~60% of all NO_x emissions released in Uinta Basin, which mix to form ozone, are from oil and gas sources – it is estimated that ~75% of those sources are on the Reservation.
- There are ~10,000 existing oil and gas wells producing in the basin without emission control requirements.
- EPA does have a permit rule for new minor air pollution sources in Indian country, however, the effective date for oil and gas sources has been delayed until sometime in 2016 as EPA works on a national strategy for oil and gas.
- The national strategy may or may not have a requirement for reducing emission from existing oil and gas sources.
- EPA also proposed in December 2014 to revise the ozone NAAQS and the final ozone standard will be issued in October 2015.
- The revised final ozone standard will start a NAA designation process [outline EPA's CAA roles/responsibilities, along with associated timelines for planning documents, and the schedule for attainment demonstration].
- With the extended implementation wait times for the tribal minor source rule and attainment demonstrations, EPA does not believe it can wait to address the basin's serious ozone problem.
- **Key Message:** EPA would like to work with the Tribe in approaching the oil and gas industry to discuss getting emission reductions on existing and new sources on the Reservation.
- To that end, we would like to invite O&G operators to a meeting, co-hosted with the Tribe, to discuss getting voluntary reductions in place on tribal land, similar to what is being required on state of Utah land.
- We also request that the Tribe consider how it could use its own authorities to formalize these voluntary reductions.
- If industry (and/or the Tribe) does not want to participate in a voluntary emission reduction strategy now, EPA will need to consider a Reservation specific rule (FIP) for

reducing VOC and NOx emissions from existing and new oil and gas sources.

- The FIP would be implemented in advance of the 2017 ozone designations process, in time to achieve early reductions that could lead to improved air quality in the basin.
- This could prepare the basin to receive a lower nonattainment ozone classification, fewer restrictions on future oil and gas development, and more flexibility in returning to attainment status.
- As part of the Tribe's enrollment in EPA's Ozone Advance program, EPA can offer the Tribe's air quality group technical assistance and capacity building through various research efforts.
- One example, EPA wants to thank the Tribe for agreeing to work with us and the state of Utah on the development of a basin wide emission inventory, as this is important work that is needed as we start the ozone designation process.
- **Other Issues:** Bonanza Power Plant. The Tribe is concerned that the Bonanza Plant may be a huge contributor to the ozone problem in the Uintah Basin.
- **Response:** The 2013 Uinta Basin Winter Ozone Study Final Report concluded that it was unlikely that the Bonanza power plant emissions contributed significantly to the pollution observed at the surface during the strong temperature inversion events in the winter season. While the coal-fired Bonanza Power Plant does produce air pollution, the plume of air pollution remains relatively close to the power plant (approximately 16 kilometers) and has a different chemical signature from the ground level ozone measured in the Uinta Basin during high ozone events in the winter season. Also, the plume generated by Bonanza generally remains above the inversion layer (typically observed between 1,800 and 1,950 MASL) during these high-ozone events because the power plant's stack height of 1,715 meters above sea level (MASL) is generally above the 1,600-1,700 MASL inversion layer. This is also shown in photographs taken from the aircraft over the course of the Winter Ozone Study, which clearly show the buoyant plume from the plant above the hazy inversion layer below. Because the Plant is not a significant contributor to the Basin's winter ozone problem, EPA is moving forward with required CAA permits for Bonanza.
- Each permit issued by the region requires us to complete an Air Quality Impact Analysis for that source to determine the air quality impact. As new permit applications are submitted to the region, we continue to face the challenge of determining how to continue to issue new permits in an area with already compromised air quality.